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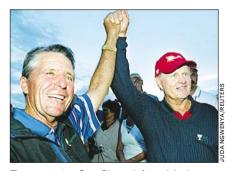
Monda

NOVEMBER 24, 2003

Medicare Stand: Defiant Democrats fight overhaul bill | 3

Tale of Two Trials: Sniper juries see very different men | 7

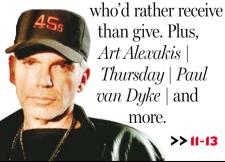
Tee Tied: World's best golfers call Presidents Cup a draw | 14



Team captains Gary Player, left, and Jack Nicklaus agree to call the Presidents Cup a tie.

Season's Greedings:

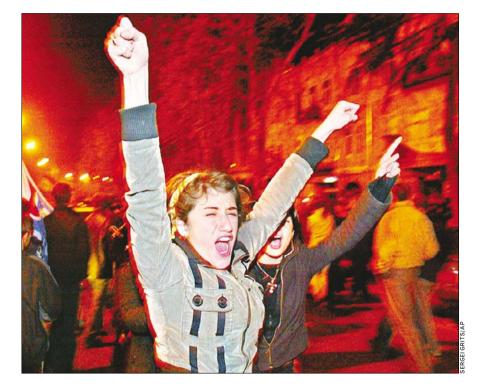
Billy Bob Thornton plays a Santa



Weather > Rain



OVERTHROWN | GEORGIAN REVOLT



JUBILATION: Opposition supporters celebrate Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation Sunday in Tbilisi. Shevardnadze, under pressure over alleged fraud in parliamentary elections, announced his resignation on Georgian television. + More: A bloodless uprising | page 5.

Most in Mass. Back Gay Marriage

BOSTON | Two new polls released Sunday show Massachusetts lawmakers could be bucking public opinion if they try to thwart the Supreme Judicial Court's ruling last week that found the state's ban on gay marriage unconstitutional.

Fifty percent of Massachusetts residents surveyed for a Boston Globe/WBZ-TV poll said they agreed with the ruling, while 38 percent opposed it. A separate Boston Sunday Herald poll found 49 percent said they support legalizing gay marriage; 38 percent oppose it.

In its ruling, Massachusetts's highest court

gave the Legislature 180 days to change the state's marriage laws for the benefit of gay couples. Some state lawmakers are now pushing for a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage and effectively skirt the ruling.

Both polls released Sunday found opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment - 53 percent opposed and 36 percent in favor in the Globe/WBZ poll of 400 Massachusetts residents, and 54 percent opposed and 36 percent in favor in the Herald poll of 405 residents. (AP)

A Savage Encounter In Mosul

2 soldiers killed in ambush in city once touted as safe

MOSUL, IRAQ | Iraqi teenagers dragged two bloodied U.S. soldiers from a wrecked vehicle and pummeled them with concrete blocks Sunday, witnesses said, describing the killings as a burst of savagery in a city once safe for Americans.

Witnesses to the Mosul attack said gunmen shot two soldiers driving through the city center, sending their vehicle crashing into a wall. About a dozen swarming teenagers dragged the soldiers out of the wreckage and beat them with concrete blocks, the witnesses said. Television footage showed the soldiers' bodies splayed on the ground as U.S. troops secured the area.

The frenzy recalled the October 1993 scene in Somalia, when locals dragged the bodies of Marines killed in fighting with warlords through the streets.

In Baghdad, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt confirmed the Mosul deaths but refused to provide details. "We're not going to get ghoulish about it," he said.

The savagery of the attack was unusual for Mosul, once touted as a success story in sharp contrast to the anti-American violence seen in Sunni Muslim areas near Baghdad. In recent weeks, however, attacks against U.S. troops have increased, raising concerns the insurgency is spreading. MARIAM FAM (AP)

♣ Trying times: Military officials insist progress is being made despite Sunday's violence, including the assassination of an Iraqi police chief | page 5

SPORTS | Like Son, Like Father Joey Williams has the size and weight of a typical college football lineman — but not the age. The 44-year-old Williams and his 21-year-old son Kyle are roommates and teammates at Lambuth University in Jackson, Tenn. The elder Williams

started working out with the football team in a bid to lose some weight and found he could beat kids half his age. He enrolled in classes and made the squad. But this season could be his last as a player: Williams says he won't return to school after his son graduates. (AP) EyeOpeners | Page 2

EyeOpeners

POLITICS Sweet Leader

The sugary side of President Vladimir Putin has gone on display in Moscow: a portrait of the Russian leader entirely in chocolate. Luxury chocolate-maker Konfael created the edible portrait of Putin on a 3.3-pound slab of white chocolate. Other kinds of chocolate flesh out the likeness - while strawberry juice colors his lips and blueberry juice shades his tie. The chocolate-



makers say the chocolate Putin is a work of art, and they are pricing it at \$700. Only two have been created. (AP)

HEALTH Labor Intensive

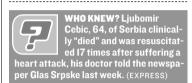
It was not your average doggy birth: A dog in Mason City, Iowa, gave birth to 13 puppies last week in a delivery that started just before sunrise and went on for hours. In all, the yellow Labrador retriever named Copenhagen's Star Hunter gave birth to five black and eight yellow puppies. Labradors are noted for having large litters, according to veterinarian Jeffrey Cornick of Pioneer Animal Hospital, so, he said, "13 is a lot, but not extremely rare." (AP)

CONTESTS Suzuki Sit-In

Finns, who compete at throwing cell phones, wife carrying and sitting in saunas, now have a new test of endurance - sitting in a car. Katri Manni, 23, drove offin a new Suzuki on Friday after sitting in it for 52 days and 15 hours. Four finalists, from 21 competitors in six cities in Finland, began their final session in a shopping mall in the capital, Helsinki, on Nov. 10. Every two hours, the car sitters were allowed a 10-minute break outside the vehicle, besides 30 minutes off per day for personal hygiene. (AP)

TRANSPORTATION Offensive Address

Asking for directions in Park County, Wyo., can be obscene - especially if you're looking for county route 6FU. The street got its name in 1980, when the county adopted an alpha-numeric road naming system. More than 30 property owners have signed a petition asking for dual designation, or two names for the route. Petitioners want it named Sheep Mountain Road, though some commissioners say that may confuse emergency dispatchers. The county already has a Sheep Mountain Lane. (AP)





RECORDS Inner Peace Rally

More than 14,600 people gathered outside the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan, on Sunday to set a new world record for the largest demonstration of tai chi. The group performed the ancient Chinese martial arts exercise, characterized by smooth and precise movements, for about 30 minutes, Reuters reports. A representative from the Guinness Book of World records declared the gathering a record, besting a 10,425-person tai chi demonstration in Hong Kong in 2001.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Thurs. Hi **52**

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com @2003

Pollen Index (Yesterday)

Today, mostly cloudy, windy mild, afternoon rain, High 66. Wind south-southwest 10-20 mph. Tonight, cloudy, evening rain, then clearing. Low 36. Wind west 8-16 mph.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

UV Index (for solar noon) Lout of IO minimal

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In Brief

WASHINGTON

GOP May Drop Energy Bill Provision in Push for Passage

Hoping to rescue energy legislation stalled in the Senate, Republicans were discussing elimination of a controversial provision to give legal protection to the makers of MTBE, a gasoline additive found to contaminate drinking water, according to sources speaking on condition of anonymity. The energy bill, a top priority of President Bush, is stymied in the Senate. Supporters fell two votes short of the 60 needed to advance it to final passage last week. (AP)

MINNEAPOLIS

Season's First Significant **Snowstorm Sweeps Midwest**

Highway traffic was slow and some airline flights were delayed Sunday as the season's first significant snowstorm struck the Upper Midwest. Six to 8 inches of snow was expected by the end of the day in much of Minnesota, the National Weather Service said. The storm was blamed for at least one traffic death, the state Department of Public Safety said. (AP)

CAMARILLO, CALIF.

Gas Prices Rise a Half-Cent Over Past Two Weeks

Retail gasoline prices rose about a half-cent per gallon in the past two weeks as crude oil prices remained $firm\ and\ demand\ increased\ because$ of the improving economy, an industry analyst said Sunday. The average price Friday for a gallon of selfserve gas nationwide, including all grades and taxes, was about \$1.55, according to the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 stations. That was up 0.53 cents since Nov. 7. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA

Some Radio Stations Going All-Christmas — Already

It's not even Thanksgiving yet, but on radios nationwide it's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas. More than two dozen FM music stations ditched regular programing this month in favor of an all-Christmas-music format, with plans to keep the carols coming until Dec. 26. Somewhere between 200 to 300 more are expected to follow suit in the next few weeks. (AP)

ON THE ROAD | MOBILE HOME



OUT WITH THE OLD: Cindy Thompson watches on Sunday as the 18th century John Roberts house is moved to the grounds of the nearby Joseph Ambler Inn, where it will become a bed-and-breakfast. The house's original Montgomeryville, Pa., location is being turned into an industrial park.

STAMP ACTION

The U.S. Postal Service was due to release its list of commemorative stamps for 2004 on Monday. Among the people honored with a stamp:

- → Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, explorers
- → Theodor Seuss Geisel, children's
- → Paul Robeson, actor, singer, civil rights activist and athlete
- → Wilma Rudolph, track star
- Isamu Noguchi, sculptor
- R. Buckminster Fuller, inventor. architect, engineer and philosopher
- James Baldwin, writer
- → Martin Johnson Heade, painter
- Moss Hart, playwright

Senators Wage Medicare Battle

Democratic leaders face fading support in fight against measure

WASHINGTON | A sweeping Medicare prescription drug bill sparked a defiant last stand Sunday by outnumbered critics in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Even so, the roster of declared Democratic supporters for the bill grew to nine when Sens. Dianne Feinstein of California and Ron Wyden of Oregon announced their intentions to vote for it.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., led a filibuster against the legislation, arguing it would lead toward privatization of Medicare and warning that if they were successful, Republicans would soon be back for more. "Social Security is next. Medicare is now," he said.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, quickly disputed that, adding that opponents were playing politics. He



Sens. John Kerry and Edward Kennedy discuss Medicare strategy on Sunday.

accused Democrats of blocking a prescription drug bill two years ago, saying they had "wanted an issue" to take into the 2002 election. "They got a defeat at the polls" instead, he said.

The measure would create a prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries for the first time since the giant health care program for seniors was created in 1965, with subsidies to help lower-income seniors pay the premiums. It would also establish an expanded opportunity for insurance companies to offer private coverage for seniors. DAVID ESPO (AP)

Medicare moves: The latest on the fight over the Republican-backed Medicare changes and waning Democratic opposition | washingtonpost.com/politics

Report: Ga., N.C. **Hepatitis Strains Likely Linked**

ATLANTA | A North Carolina outbreak of hepatitis A probably came from green onions, which also have been blamed for outbreaks linked to restaurants in Georgia, Tennessee and Pennsylvania, according to a preliminary state health report.

The Georgia Division of Public Health found that the hepatitis A strain that sickened 16 people in North Carolina was the same as the one that afflicted 259 people in Georgia and likely came from the same source.

The Georgia outbreak had previously been traced to green onions shipped from Mexico, and the report said a single Atlanta Farmers' Market distributor provided green onions from California suppliers to three Georgia restaurants where multiple people got the liver infection. DANIEL YEE (AP)

FBI Bulletin on Protesters Questioned

WASHINGTON | Civil liberties groups and politicians raised the prospect Sunday that FBI monitoring of anti-war protesters could stifle legitimate dissent and jeopardize people's First Amendment right to speak their mind.

An FBI official on Sunday denied any effort to collect intelligence on people exercising their rights to free speech. The official said the effort was aimed at providing police around the country with information about how such protests should be handled.

In one of its weekly bulletins sent to thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide, the FBI last month detailed some of the tactics used by anti-war protesters that police could expect at rallies in San Francisco and Washington to protest the Iraq war. Past such bulletins, which usually concern terrorist threats and activities, also have discussed activities by such groups as environmental advocates and anti-globalization activists.

The bulletins are confidential, but several have been obtained by media organizations.

Critics called attention to a section of the bulletin that urges police to report suspicious or unlawful activity to their local Joint Terrorism Task Force, a multiagency group run by the FBI. curt anderson (AP)



Demonstrators raise signs decrying alleged human rights abuses during a protest at Fort Benning, Ga., on Sunday.

Military School Protest Draws Thousands

COLUMBUS, GA. | Some 10,000 demonstrators chanted and waved signs Sunday outside the Army's Fort Benning in their annual protest against a military school for Latin American soldiers on the base.

Opponents of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the School of the Americas, blame

the school for atrocities by some of its graduates in Latin America.

The crowd, estimated at 10,000 by Columbus police, was the largest yet for the annual protest, said coordinator Eric la Compton.

Army officials say the school trains soldiers in civilian and diplomatic affairs, and that human rights courses are mandatory. ELLIOTT MINOR (AP) \$200 - \$750

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Nation

Democrats Insist GOP Pull Bush Campaign Ad

Daschle says GOP is misconstruing Dems' position on terrorism

WASHINGTON | Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle is demanding that Republicans stop showing their first television ad of the 2004 presidential race, which he called "repulsive and outrageous."

The 30-second ad, featuring clips of Bush during his State of the Union address last January, portrays the president as a fighter of terrorism as Democrats retreat from the fight.

"We all want to defeat terrorism," the South Dakota senator told NBC's "Meet the Press." But "to chastise and to question the patriotism of those who are in opposition

to some of the president's plans I think is wrong."

The Republican National Committee has no plans to honor Daschle's wishes.

"We have no doubt that Sen. Daschle and others in his party who oppose the president's policy of pre-emptive self-defense believe that their national security approach is in the best interests of the country," RNC spokeswoman Christine Iverson said. "But we also have no doubt that they are wrong about that, and we will continue to highlight this critical policy difference as well as others."

The ad will air through Tuesday in Iowa, and then may run again in New Hampshire during the next Democratic debate in December, Iverson said. JENNIFER C. KERR (AP)

BLAZING A PATH | BACK IN SERVICE



ALL ABOARD: Thelma Stuart of Valley Stream, Long Island, N.Y., holds her daughter Amanda on Sunday as they ride on the first PATH train to return to the World Trade Center area after the station was destroyed Sept. 11, 2001. Regular service between the station and New Jersey resumed Sunday.

Diplomats Battle Over N.Y. Space Jam

NEW YORK | In the latest space race, the Russians are losing. And it's about to become an international incident. At stake is one of New York City's most coveted assets: a free parking space.

For years, New York City has been battling deadbeat diplomats who refuse to pay their parking tickets, citing diplomatic immunity. Russia used to be the top offender, receiving 31,388 tickets in one year.

But now the tables have turned. Somebody is parking in spaces desig-

nated for Russian diplomats, and the police refuse to ticket them. That's because the scofflaws are the police themselves, says Russian ambassador Sergei V. Lavrov.

In October, the U.S. Senate passed legislation sponsored by New York Sens. Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton that requires Washington, D.C., to reduce a country's foreign aid package by the amount it owes in parking fines, plus a 10 percent penalty. The bill has yet to go to the House. Maggie farley (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

World

In Brief

SYRIA

Man Gets Suspended Sentence For Smoking During Ramadan

A Syrian man caught smoking a cigarette during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan has been handed a suspended jail sentence of one month. Tawfiq Breik Hneidi, 36, is the first Syrian arrested in 50 years for smoking in public during Ramadan. Hneidi is a follower of the Druse religion, which is an offshoot of Islam. His lawyer, Khalil Matouq, called the arrest "a violation of human rights" and vowed to appeal. (AP)

KASHMIR

Pakistani PM Calls For Truce Over 'Line of Control'

Pakistani troops patrolling the volatile frontier dividing Kashmir will begin a cease-fire within days, Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali said Sunday. The cease-fire will coincide with the holiday marking the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. The frontier, or Line of Control, was drawn up after the last India-Pakistan war in 1971 and divides the disputed Himalayan region between Pakistan and predominantly Hindu India. (AP)

ITALY

Discovery of WWII Bomb Leads to Mass Evacuation

Tens of thousands of Milanese and tourists were evacuated from their homes and hotels Sunday and hundreds of train runs were rerouted from the central station so experts could detonate a half-ton World War II bomb found on the outskirts of Milan during construction work. The operation was described as the city's largest evacuation in the six decades since the war. Experts safely detonated the bomb. (AP)



An Italian soldier kneels next to the WWII bomb that was found in Milan.

Trying Times In Iraq

Military tries to stay on message as coalition copes with bloody day

MOSUL, IRAQ | Despite the continuing violence in Iraq, American officers insisted they were making progress in bringing stability to the country, and the U.S.-appointed Governing Council named an ambassador to Washington — renewing the diplomatic ties between Washington and Baghdad that were severed in 1990 when Saddam invaded Kuwait.

Meanwhile, in Baqouba, just north of Baghdad, insurgents detonated a roadside bomb as a 4th Infantry Division convoy passed, killing one soldier and wounding two others, the military said.

Also on Sunday, gunmen killed the Iraqi police chief of Latifiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad, American and Iraqi officials said. No further details were released.

The assassination occurred one day after suicide bombers struck two police stations near Baghdad within 30 minutes, killing at least 14 people. Gunmen on Saturday also killed an Iraqi policeman protecting oil installations in Mosul.



In this video image, the body of a U.S. soldier lies next to his vehicle in Mosul, Iraq, on Sunday. Witnesses said gunmen killed the soldiers, then teenagers dragged their dead bodies from the vehicle and pummeled them with concrete blocks.

The U.S.-led coalition said Sunday it grounded commercial flights after the military confirmed that a missile struck a DHL cargo plane that landed with its wing aflame at Baghdad International Airport. The plane was the first civilian airliner hit by insurgents.

Despite the ongoing violence, U.S. officials insisted the occupation was going well. "If you look at the accomplishments of the coalition since March of this year, it has been enormous," Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Tikrit.

Pace spoke on Sunday, as witnesses said Iraqi teenagers armed with concrete blocks pummeled the dead bodies of two U.S. soldiers in the streets of Mosul. The frenzy recalled the October 1993 scene in Mogadishu, Somalia, when locals dragged through the streets the bodies of Marines killed in fighting with warlords. Mariam Fam (AP)

Georgia's President Steps Down

Shevardnadze, once admired in the West, is ousted by opposition

TBILISI, GEORGIA | Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze resigned Sunday as the opposition threatened to storm his residence. His fall sparked fireworks and dancing among tens of thousands of protesters, and ended a political crisis astonishing for its speed and lack of violence.

"The president has accomplished a courageous act," said opposition leader Mikhail Saakashvili. "History will judge him kindly."

Shevardnadze's resignation caps a political career during which he won admiration in the West by helping guide the Cold War to an end as Soviet foreign minister under Mikhail Gorbachev. But Georgians widely detested him for allowing corruption to infest the country.

That anger fed the uprising, but it was initially triggered by the fraudplagued parliamentary elections on Nov. 2. Opposition forces demanded the elections be annulled or that Shevardnadze resign. (AP)

Scenes from an uprising: An isolated President Eduard Shevardnadze, demonstrators dancing on buses, a country's new dawn | Today's Post: Section A

Mosul's bloody day: The attack on the U.S. soldiers was the latest sign of unrest in this predominantly Sunni Muslim city | Today's Post: Section A

Nationalist Bloc Poised To Take Power in Croatia

ZAGREB, CROATIA | Nationalists who led Croatia to independence in 1991 appeared poised to return to power Sunday after partial results from parliamentary elections showed them ousting the current pro-Western government.

Early returns gave 76 seats to the bloc of the late nationalist president, Franjo Tudjman. Prime Minister Ivica Racan's center-left coalition, struggling with voter dismay over slow improvement in living standards, gained only 63 seats.

Nationalist Ivo Sanader, the new

leader of the Croatian Democratic Union, known as HDZ, declared his party's showing "a brilliant victory."

The HDZ claims it has abandoned the hardline ways that repelled the West in the past and says it is ready to make Croatia a part of mainstream Europe. Some critics worry that its change has been mainly in image, and that a nationalist agenda could resurface.

The next government could fulfill Croats' desire to bring the former Yugoslav republic of 4.5 million people into the European Union. (AP)

Israeli PM Considers Unilateral Action

JERUSALEM | Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, whose popularity has slipped over his failure to end the conflict with the Palestinians,

floated the idea of taking unilateral steps Sunday, with officials telling Israeli media this may include drawing a border and removing some settlements.

Sharon

Under the plan reported Sunday, Israel would draw its own border if peace efforts bog down, and the frontier would run along the West Bank barrier currently under construction. Sharon reportedly told Cabinet ministers on Sunday that he would consider rerouting upcoming segments — which as currently planned would cut deep into the West Bank in some areas — and bring them closer to Israel.

Palestinian officials and Israeli liberals were skeptical. "We've heard many promises, but nothing has come of them," said Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres, (AP)



BY THE NUMBERS: A poll found that more than half of Israelis and Palestinians support the Geneva Accord, a peace proposal worked out by former negotiators that includes unprecedented compromises for both sides. (AP)

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World



Fishermen cast their lines off the Galata bridge in Istanbul, Turkey, on Sunday. People are seeking a return to normalcy in this city wounded by terrorist attacks.

Turkey Regroups After Bombings

PM defends alliances with West as mosques come under scrutiny

ISTANBUL, TURKEY | The terrorist bombings that have stunned Turkey have not diminished the Muslim nation's resolve to move closer to the West, the prime minister said Sunday, adding that it is still too early to say whether al Qaeda is behind the attacks.

We have some evidence which indicates there are religious motives behind this," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the British Broadcasting Corp. "But is this an al

Qaeda conglomerate? ... We are not 100 percent sure at this point."

Meanwhile, the government took its anti-terror campaign to the nation's religious institutions. The Directorate for Religious Affairs, which controls all the mosques in Turkey, issued an anti-terrorism sermon to be preached Tuesday as Muslims mark the end of Ramadan, the Anatolia news agency reported.

Erdogan's remarks came as Istanbul struggled to regain some measure of normalcy after four suicide bombings killed 57 people and injured hundreds — the deadliest peacetime violence here in decades. PAMELA SAMPSON (AP)

Afghan Security Dire, U.N. Official Says

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | Terrorists will kill more of the humanitarian workers trying to rebuild Afghanistan if international forces don't improve security, a U.N. official warned Sunday at the funeral for a slain French aid worker.

"This year alone, 12 aid workers - Afghans and expatriates have been killed in Afghanistan in terrorist attacks," said Kamel

Morjane, the assistant high commissioner of the United Nations refugee agency.

He made the remarks at a memorial for Bettina Goislard, 29, who was shot on Nov. 16 in the southern city of Ghazni by suspected Taliban insurgents. She was the first international aid worker killed in Afghanistan since a U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban in 2001. (AP)



tch at the stadium where the ousted Taliban regime once carried ou ecutions. The home team lost 2-0 to neighboring Turkmenistan. (AP)

Region

In Brief

2 Virginians, 1 Md. Resident **Win Rhodes Scholarships**

Among the new Rhodes Scholars are two Virginians, Rachael A. Wagner and Christopher W. Wells, and one Maryland resident, David Robinson. They were selected from 963 candidates to attend the University of Oxford in England next October on scholarships. Wagner, of Virginia Beach, is a Harvard University senior. Wells, of McLean, is a senior at Yale University. Robinson of Potomac, Md., is a senior at Princeton University. (AP)

RICHMOND, VA

State Spends Less Than National Per-Pupil Average

Virginia's public school teacher salaries remain thousands of dollars below the national average, and the state spends less than the national per-pupil average, according to a new study conducted by the American Legislative Exchange Council, which used information gathered from 1999 to 2002 to rank states. (AP)

All Angles Shown In Sniper Trials

Jurors are presented multiple views of Malvo, Muhammad

CHESAPEAKE, VA. | Though jurors in the two sniper cases have seen much of the same crime-scene evidence, the direct exposure they've had to the minds of the men on trial for their lives is dramatically different.

During a week of prosecution evidence, Lee Boyd Malvo's jurors heard more than three hours of tapes from two interviews in which Malvo confesses to pulling the trigger in each shooting, brags about his shooting prowess and explains the sniper plan by weaving together the philosophical, logistical and nonsensical.

At times he sounds childlike and vulnerable. At others he sounds maniacal and savvy. And he is often friendly, insisting he is a "good guy."

A short drive away in Virginia Beach, Muhammad's jury, which

resumes sentencing deliberations Monday, has no confession, no testimony from Muhammad and no mental health information on



whether he should be allowed to live or be executed for the shooting rampage.

What Muhammad's jury personally knows of him comes from the two days in which he represented himself and home videos of him playing with his children. Muhammad has appeared mostly stone-faced during the trial, and denied involvement in the crimes during his rambling opening statement. Adrienne schwisow (AP)

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Army Corps Has Plan To Restore Oysters to Bay

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. | The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has mapped out a multimilliondollar plan to restore oysters in the Chesapeake Bay with largescale plantings of disease-resistant shellfish.

Doug Martin, the restoration effort's project manager, said the concept will be tested in select tidal areas. So far, successes in small tributaries in the NorfolkVirginia Beach area suggest that escalating plantings of genetically superior oysters may help overcome diseases now killing off the bay's oysters.

Next spring, the Corps of Engineers will spend \$2.3 million to build 108 acres of reefs and plant baby oysters in the Great Wicomico River, a bay tributary on the Northern Neck once famous for its oysters. (AP)

Holidays Bring Exodus to D.C. Region

WASHINGTON | About 578.000 | Washington area residents are expected to travel at least 50 miles this Thanksgiving weekend, the American Automobile Association said Friday.

Thursday is expected to be the busiest day on the roads, while Wednesday and Sunday will be the most congested at area airports.

Airports are predicting long waits at security checkpoints and are advising travelers to allow twice the usual time for check-in and going through security. (AP)

SINCE YOU ASKED

As I cram for another day onto a packed Blue Line train to get me home, I wonder: How does Metro decide which trains get four cars and which get six?

Believe it or not, Metro sends A people out each month to count the number of riders per car on some rush-hour trains on each rail line. Metro tries to add cars to keep the number of riders below I20, although I00 would be ideal, said Jim Hughes, director of operations planning. He noted cars have been counted with as many as 180 riders. System-wide in September, the average number per car was IOI, he said. The Blue Line averaged 99 riders per car. So if you feel squeezed, take a rush-hour ride on the Orange or Green lines - they had II3 riders per car. As Metro acquires more cars, it is adding them to trains, Hughes said, with an eye toward eventually running eight-car trains. DANNY FREEDMAN (EXPRESS)

Looking for answers to your Metro-related questions? E-mail Danny.Freedman@readexpress.com.



Personal Finance

To Your Credit

MONEY | The reputation of the credit counseling industry has been battered in recent months by reports questioning agencies' ethical practices and use of deceptive marketing.

As a result of the criticism, some consumers who need help may be hesitant about seeking it for fear they can't tell the bad from the good.

"People are becoming skeptical and afraid," said David C. Jones, president of the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies, based in Richmond, Va. "They hear so many different things they don't know what to do."

He added: "In a way it's a good thing, because people will know to be more careful to look around and be sure they're dealing with responsible agencies."

Kayla Fenner, 36, sought help



IN CONTROL: Kayla Fenner sought a credit service's advice to reduce her debt.

about three years ago from the Consumer Credit Counseling Service in Shreveport, La.

"I had been swimming in debt since I got my first credit card in college at the age of 19," Fenner said. "I realized that even though I made a good salary, I was living hand to mouth."

CCCS counselors helped her work out a budget and a payment schedule and Fenner, a registered nurse, has so far paid off all but \$8,000 of her \$37,000 debt.

FINDING GOOD HELP

Some tips on locating a reputable credit counseling agency:

- → **Ask friends** and relatives for recommendations.
- → Check with your local Better Business Bureau or state consumer protection agency to determine if complaints have been filed against an agency.
- → **Don't settle** for a counselor who doesn't take the time to discuss your spending habits, work out a budget and agree to help you better handle your finances.
- → **Get any** agreement in writing, and read it before you sign it.
- → **Beware of** high upfront fees, "voluntary contributions" or high monthly service fees.

"[The counselors] made me cut up all my credit cards, and I had to learn how to live without credit," said Fenner, married and the mother of two children. "But I did it, and it's the best thing I've ever done." EILEEN ALT POWELL (AP)



SINCE YOU ASKED

Is an individual entitled to a free credit report from all of the big three credit bureaus? If so, how do I go about it?

A You're entitled to one free credit report from each bureau annually only if you're a resident of certain states (Colorado, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Vermont).

Alternatively, you can get a free report from a credit bureau if you are unemployed, are on welfare, are the victim of fraud or have been denied credit by a lender that used information obtained from that bureau

The bureaus' Web sites (Equifax.com, Experian.com, TransUnion.com) have information about getting reports. (LATWP)

Color of Money: The Post's Michelle Singletary hosts William McKibben, author of "Hundred Dollar Holiday" | washingtonpost.com/liveonline at I p.m.



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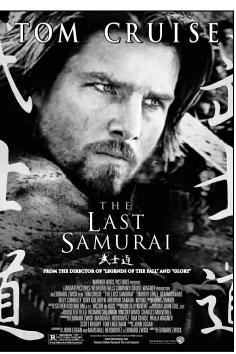
Winners will be notified by Monday, December 1.

To enter, e-mail your name, address, and telephone number to contest@readexpress.com

For contest rules, call PostHaste at 202-334-9000 enter category 8050. Entries must be received by Wednesday, November 26.



A publication of The Washington Pos



IN THEATRES DECEMBER 5TH

Careers

Steal This Job

Benjamin Corey Feinblum, 24

JOB: Magician and founder of Mind Over Magic Entertainment.

EDUCATION: Studying sociology at University of Maryland and also studying at the Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory.

what do you do? Perform magic and entertain at parties, corporate conventions and schools as often as three or four times a week; also handle the office side of the business. How did you get your Job? Took up magic as a full-time job after about 13 years of learning and performing. "Everything you do in magic is very complicated ... people say, 'I would like you to come to our event and do only impossible things for 40 minutes and while you do it, be funny.' It's something that really takes a tremendous effort to develop."



HOW CAN I GET YOUR JOB? Practice constantly and seek out conventions, such as MotionFest, to learn from different artists — jugglers, singers, other magicians. It all contributes to the constant evolution of your act: "Anybody can do tricks. A magician's skill is the capacity to generate a sense of magic inside of the audience." Get used to being asked how tricks are done and to hear a lot of the same jokes (e.g., "Can you make my husband disappear?").

Productive, Punchy

Employers find new ways to keep an eye on workers' output

AT WORK | It's 9 a.m. Do you know where your workers are?

Increasingly, companies do. In their drive to squeeze greater efficiency from staffers, a growing number of employers are embracing sophisticated electronic tracking systems to ensure their workers are at their desks when they are supposed to be.

And while many blue-collar workers are used to punching a time clock, many of the new tracking systems are trained on white-collar, salaried employees.

At New York law firm Akin & Smith LLC, paralegals, receptionists and clerks clock in by placing a finger on a sensor kept at a secretary's desk.

"It keeps everyone honest," says Derek Smith, a managing partner at the firm. "I like to see how long they take for lunch," he says, adding that the system has been "very success-



The time clock and its more high-tech counterparts are happy to spy on you.

ful" in boosting productivity.

For Wanda Ortiz, a 24-year-old paralegal, the firm's biometric system was a bit of a shock at first.

 $\hbox{``Inever saw}$ anything like this "at three other law-firm jobs, she says.

But she says placing her thumb on the sensor whenever she enters or leaves the office has made her more conscious about getting back to work on time after breaks. "I do rush at lunchtime if I go out," Ortiz says.

At the Mitsubishi Motors North America plant in Normal, Ill., Andy Whaley, a manager of accounting, can check from his desktop computer how many of the plant's 500 white-collar employees have shown up for work.

"We look at the system every day, and we can see how many people are working both on the floor-associate side and the salary side," Mr. Whaley says. "Once we capture that data, we can look at those reports and say, 'Hey, we worked so many hours this shift and we built so many cars."

But workplace-rights advocates say such tracking systems are often needlessly invasive.

"If you can't tell if someone is doing their job without checking their physical location every five minutes you're not much of a manager," says Lewis Maltby, president of the National Workrights Institute.

Career track: Post columnist Mary Ellen Slayter answers your workplace and career-related questions | washingtonpost.com/liveonline at II a.m.

Online Resumes: File Under 'Name'

RESUMES | Is your resume online? If it is, make sure you don't give it the file name "resume." Use your name as a label.

In a study of more than 10,000 resume files from a variety of industries, ResumeDoctor.com found that

the file names of more than half, 54 percent, did not contain the job seeker's name.

As one recruiter put it: "It's like sifting through a cupboard full of soup cans with the labels torn off." (AP)

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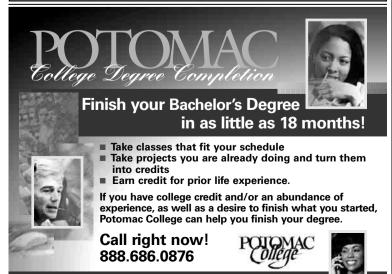
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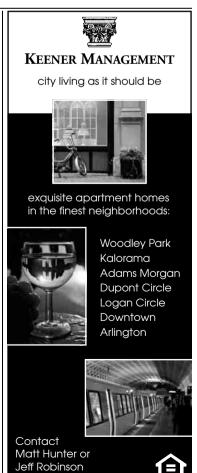
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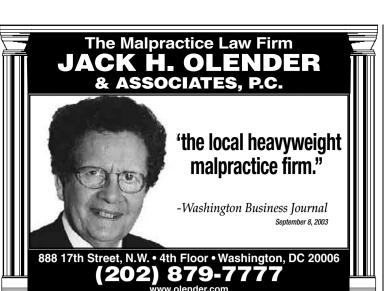
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Lookout

Macho Makeover

Sometimes a Latin urban cowboy just wants to feel pretty

TRENDS | Smearing hot wax on Harvey Soto's back and unruly eyebrows, a black-clad aesthetician presses down on Soto's skin and with a quick tug delivers him into the world of the metrosexual man.

The pain, puffiness and red patches are small prices to pay for being beautiful, says Soto, a 42-year-old graphic artist from San Juan.

"When you think of men here, you think about machismo or being rough," says the burly Soto. "But that image is changing."

In a region where images of unshaven men once ruled the bill-boards, machismo remains king, but the markings of manliness are changing. Wild-haired revolutionaries like Che Guevara have been replaced by clean-cut metrosexual icons like soccer star David Beckham, singer Ricky Martin and Texas Rangers outfielder Juan Gonzalez, who comes from Puerto Rico.

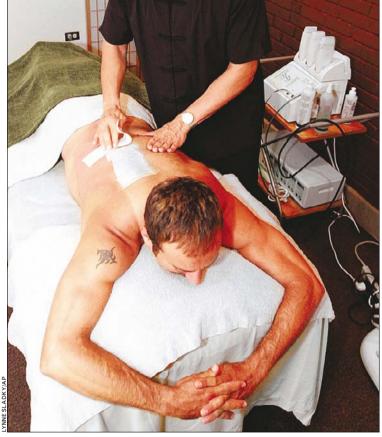
It's not that bravado has vanished. Many men still play Casanova, but more are fitting beauty appointments in between the seductions.

Metrosexuality, a word coined by British journalist and author Mark Simpson in 1994, refers to urban, heterosexual men who wax, exfoliate and perform other grooming rituals some consider strictly feminine.

The trend that took off in Europe and the United States has begun to influence tastes in Latin America and much of the world. Metrosexuals can now be seen from the islands of the Caribbean to the spice-scented alleys of India. They represent a booming \$8 billion a year industry, according to beauty analysts.

In the United States alone, the male grooming market was worth more than \$2.4 billion last year. In Europe, the market was worth \$3.8 billion, according to Alissa Ostriwosky, with the Mintel Group, a Chicago-based independent research firm. Estimates for Latin America varied.

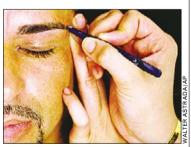
"We're seeing skin care products for men, hair color products, and even things to make your



DOES HE OR DOESN'T HE? Modern men have some beauty secrets of their own.

skin lighter," says Bill Steele, a household products and cosmetics analyst with Banc of America Securities in Ashland, Oregon. "It's a growth industry, there's no question about it."

Latin Americans seem to have



"I don't like how a lot of the men are making their eyebrows so thin. Sometimes they look like girls."

taken the lead from their counterparts in Europe and the United States, where the topic of metrosexuality has saturated the media. For example, the U.S. TV show "Queer

Eye for the Straight Guy" uses gay men to transform styleless heterosexuals into worthy metrosexuals.

The subject has even crept into American politics. Syndicated columnist Maureen Dowd recently questioned whether U.S. President George W. Bush should consider a metrosexual makeover.

In Argentina — land of the rugged gauchos — growing numbers of men see plastic surgeons for nose jobs. In Brazil, some men are going for enzyme treatments to fade stretch marks. And in Mexico, where faded pictures of leathery skinned male movie stars line cantina walls, executives are dashing to salons for makeup jobs.

But back in San Juan, Marta Rodriguez says some men go too

"I don't like how a lot of the men are making their eyebrows so thin. Sometimes they look like girls," the 29-year-old jeweler says.

So, will men stop at nothing to be beautiful?

"Bikini wax," says Soto. "That's where I draw the line." PAISLEY DODDS

Entertainmen

Devil in a Red Suit

Billy Bob Thornton plavs a Santa who's been very naughty

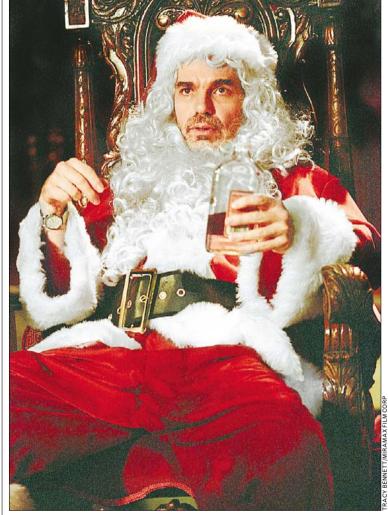
PERSONALITY | Billy Bob Thornton has played some loathsome characters in his career, but nothing compares to the self-hating drunk he depicts in Miramax's dark comedy "Bad Santa." This Santa is so rotten, he's enough to make the Grinch flinch.

"It was a good challenge for me as an actor to play a character like that, because I'm quite the opposite of that," the Oscar winner said. "I'm very sentimental. Plus, I have two little boys that are 9 and 10, and Christmastime around here is this amazing time."

In "Bad Santa," Thornton plays a foul-mouthed safecracker who teams with a dwarf to knock over department stores while working as a store Santa and his helper.

Their crime spree continues until they run into an equally unscrupulous mall detective (Bernie Mac) who wants a piece of the action.

"I just thought the script was hilarious and very well written," said Thornton. "I'd never seen anything quite like it." (John Requa and Glenn Ficarra, co-writers of the 2001 comedy "Cats & Dogs," wrote it.)



CRASS KRINGLE: Thornton as the not-so-jolly old elf indulges in some seasonal spirits; he plays a safecracker who uses the disguise to rob department stores.

Directed by Terry Zwigoff and executive produced by sibling filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen, the film also stars late actor John Ritter

The unconventional holiday film is not without its detractors. Some conservative groups already have complained to Miramax's parent company, the Walt Disney Co., about the film's content. (In one scene, Thornton's drunken Santa

"It was a good challenge for me ... because I'm quite the opposite. I'm very sentimental."

relieves himself while posing with kids for holiday photos at the department store.)

While other actors might shy away from such controversial material, Thornton relished the opportunity to try something different. "I've tried to make choices that make me happy in my career," he said in his slow, deliberate Southern drawl.

"I always just go by the character and the story. I don't look for a particular type of thing to do. I just like to keep moving and always do something fairly different each time." ANGELA DAWSON (ENTERTAINMENT NEWS WIRE

WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Nothing but the Truth: Political Party Animals

Remember how galvanizing politically charged rock could be before it got neutered by the "sing-no-evil" era? A collection of artists revive the idea and the sound of voting-man's rock when Billy Bragg, Steve Earle, Lester Chambers and the Nightwatchmen (that's Rage Against the Machine's Tom Morello, now with Audioslave) assemble for the "Tell Us the Truth Tour."

9:30 Club, 815 VSt. NW, 7:30 p.m., \$25; 703-218-6500. (USt.-Cardozo)

Art Rock: **Alexakis Returns**

As the lead singer for Everclear, Art Alexakis's ■ indulgences were as notorious as his tight post-grunge rock was popular. If any album makes a case for introspective rehab, it's Alexakis's "Slow Motion Daydream," a slice of rock 'n' roll from the sober side.

Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 7:30 p.m., \$20; 703-549-7500.



'Stop him!" Art Alexakis points out the man who gave him that bleach job.

Mystery Theater: Shadow Puppetry

Malaysia, mystery, puppets .. need we say more? Randy Baker's new play takes place in the mysterious East and concerns the mysterious disappearance of a master of the mysterious art of shadow puppetry. How mysterious? Terribly mysterious! The roles are performed by Rorschach Theatre actors and puppets. Through Dec. 20.

Casa del Pueblo, 1459 Columbia Road NW; 202-332-3422.

Continued on page 12

Thursday Every Day

MUSIC | The third album is a milestone in the careers of many bands. The musicians have built a loyal following, and feel ready to take the risky step of changing their sound, lyrics or image. Thursday decided to do just that on its third album, "War All the Time" (Island/Victory).

There are similarities to the band's previous records: dramatic drumbeats, exaggerated guitars, smooth bass lines and the falsetto voice of front man Geoff Rickly, all of which sound as though the album was recorded in a dance hall with bad acoustics.

What's different here is the emo-

tion. Thursday's older tunes covered things like car crashes and desolate cities. "War All the Time" explores feelings of alienation in different environments.

The opening track, "For the Workforce, Drowning," explains how one can get lost in the drudgery of a white-collar job: "These ties strangle our necks, hanging in the closet, filed in the cubicle/ Without a name, just numbers on a resume stored in a mainframe/ Marked for delete."

"Signals Over the Air" expresses aggression against that certain someone just before the relation-



IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A THURSDAY: The band waits (and waits) for the weekend.

ship ends. Other tracks describe feelings at the start of war, when a friend dies, and at a lack of religious faith, all of which ties into the alienation motif.

Although the album is mostly

exhilarating to hear, it's depressing to understand. "War All the Time" is worth a listen, though, even if it's likely to appeal mostly to existing fans of the band. MATTHEW RAPHAEL (THE HARTFORD COURANT)

Entertainment

Feeling a New Beat

Paul van Dyk raises the roof — and awareness of economic inequity

PERSONALITY | When you're an internationally renowned artist who's remixed superstars like U2, thrown down DJ sets at almost every dance hotspot around the globe and crafted a heap of top-10 club hits, what do you do next?

If you're Paul van Dyk, you turn your attention toward raising the social consciousness of your listeners, courtesy of a life-changing trip to Bombay, India, in late 2002.

"What I saw driving through the streets was just really devastating," he recalled. "There was nothing that's acceptable. In our so-called civilized world, we adjusted ourselves to the fact that some people have more, some people have less. But somehow, even if it's not always fair, it's still kind of balanced in a way. And it was completely out of any balance."

The Berlin native's fourth artist album, "Reflections," mirrors this desire to bring about change. Alongside traditional elements — the uptempo soul of "Homage"; the ethereal house thumping of "Connected"; the wiry beats of the title track — van Dyk expanded his sound to include a collaboration with rockers Vega 4 on the transcendent electronic/rock



GETTING DOWN FOR THE GREATER GOOD: Paul van Dyk hadn't realized how comfortable his life had been as a sought-after DJ until he saw how the other half lives.

hybrid "Time of Our Lives," a shift toward pop structures representative of the album as a whole.

Innovation and diversity are intrinsic to van Dyk's success. Hits like "For an Angel" and "Another Way" mixed whooshing modern keyboards and slick beats that ooze as much warmth as they do danceability.

"I remember how many people said, 'Oh yeah, your next record should sound like 'Angel," he said. "It's like, 'No.' The track actually is based on the fact that I met my then-girlfriend, now my wife. When I write something about my relationship now in 2003, it sounds like 'Homage.' It doesn't sound like 'Angel,' because [that was written] 11 years ago!"

In addition to making music, Van Dyk has become a benefactor of the Indian charity Akanksha, an organization dedicated to feeding and educating impoverished children.

"I ... know, especially with electronic music, that a lot of people think this is kind of meaningless, worthless music, because it's just faceless projects. But at the same time, I hope that people actually reflect on my music and what my music says." Annie Zaleski (BILLBOARD.COM)

TopStops

Continued from page 11

Sweet Revenge: Vendetta Red at Black Cat

As skate-punky post-grunge with a snarky sense of humor, the music of Vendetta Red pretty much covers all the boyrock bases, and does it in style. The Seattle quintet can take a song from trad to hardcore, from ballad to noise, in the blink of a string.

Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW, 8:30 p.m., \$12; 202-667-7960. (USt.-Cardozo)



Vendetta Red enjoys the aftermath to another successful stint in D.C.

Creche Groove: Nativity Scenes on Display

During the holiday season, the National Cathedral displays its eclectic and beautiful collection of creches from around the world. Through Jan. 11.

National Cathedral, Wisconsin and Massachusetts avenues NW; Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun., 1-4 p.m., free; 202-537-6200.





Entertainment

ON TV TONIGHT

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IN ITALY THAN IN A BOX, JOE

Not since Napoleon retreated from Moscow has a European misadventure ended so badly. The agony finally ends on the series finale of THE NEXT JOE MILLIONAIRE: AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR (8 p.m., Fox). David must choose between Linda, the recently re-installed Prague beauty, and Cat, the Hessian hussy who brought out the claws in Faux Joe's crowded cathouse.

Like the rest of us, David's bevy of beauties seemed to feel sorry for him. One of the saddest moments came a few weeks back when David treated Petra to a fancy lunch and his Dutch date had to teach him about the virtues of drinking wine that comes in a bottle. What must she have thought when her multimillionaire escort exclaimed, "Wine is much better in Italy than in a box"? The two remaining gals will probably breathe a sigh of relief when he spills the beans and tells them he's really a penniless cowpoke.

EVERYBODY LOVES SWEEPS

EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (9 p.m., CBS) Fred Willard has emerged as the hardest-working moonlighter on television. He's back tonight as Robert's religious father-in-law. He and his wife (Georgia Engel) host the Barones for their first extended family Thanksgiving.

On EVERWOOD (9 p.m., WB) Betty White, another frequent sitcom guest star, shows up tonight as Dr. Abbott's (Tom Amandes) mother-in-law.

Tonight's other sweeps-month guest stints include "Saturday Night Live" veteran Kevin Nealon on STILL STANDING



We're "Raymond" fans, and even we don't recognize half of these people.

(8:30 p.m., CBS) and Denise Richards (Charlie Sheen's real-life wife) on TWO AND A HALF MEN (9:30 p.m., CBS).

LIGHTS! CAMERA! DEMOCRACY!

DEMOCRATIC DEBATE (9 p.m., MSNBC) Tom Brokaw moderates a debate between the nine Democratic candidates from the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines, Iowa.

BRAVE NEW WORLD (11 p.m., Sci-Fi) "O.C." star Peter Gallagher appears in a slick 1998 made-for-TV adaptation of Aldous Huxley's novel. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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BROTHER BEAR (G) (2:10 4:20)6:35 8:40
MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (R) (1:00 4:00)7:00 10:00
★ LOONEY TUNES (PG) (2:30 4:40)6:50 9:00
★ MASTER & COMMANDER (PG–13) (1:330 3:30)6:30 9:40
LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (12:20 3:10)6:10 9:20

CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (2:10 4:10)6:30 9:10 TUPAC RESURRECTION (R) (1:20 4:30)7:10 9:30 GOTHIKA (R) (1:40 4:40)7:20 9:45 F (PG) (1:30 3:50)6:20 8:30

M M FOGGY BOTTOM

* GUTINIS (...)
ELF (PG) (1:30 3:50)6:20 8:30
RADIO (PG) (12:50)6:15
MYSTIC RIVER (R) (3:20)8:50
SCARY MOVIE 3 (PG-13) (1:10 3:00 5:40)7:50 9:50 **INNER CIRCLE 3**

RADIO (PG) 7:10 INTOLERABLE CRUELTY (PG-13) (4:30)9:30 SCHOOL OF ROCK (PG-13) (4:40)7:20 9:40 SCARY MOVIE 3 (PG-13) (4:50)7:00 9:20

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MYSTIC RIVER (R) (1:00)6:50

MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) (DTS DIGITAL) (12:10

LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (DTS DIGITAL) (12:00 3:00)6:30 9:30 LOONEY TUNES (PG) (DTS DIGITAL) (12:40 3:40)6:20 9:15 ELF (PG) (DTS DIGITAL) (11:50 2:20 4:40)7:30 9:55 BROTHER BEAR (G) (12:50 3:50)7:10 9:10 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (R) (12:30 3:20)7:00 9:50 CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (12:20 2:30 4:50)7:20 9:20

CINEPLEX ODEO **DUPONT CIRCLE 5** M DUPONT CIRCLE

THE HUMAN STAIN (R) (2:00 4:30)7:00 9:30 PIECES OF APRIL (PG-13) (1:20 3:20 5:30)7:20 9:40 DIE, MOMMIE, DIE! (R) (1:00 3:10 5:20)7:40 9:50 GOSPEL OF JOHN (PG-13) (12:30 4:00)7:30 SHATTERED GLASS (PG-13) (1:10 3:30 5:40)7:50 10:00

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CAT IN THE HAT (PG) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:10 1:10 2:10 3:10 4:10 5:10) 6:10 7:10 8:10 9:10 10:10 GOTHIKA (R) (12:40 2:40 4:40)6:40 8:40 10:40 MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:30 1:30 3:30 4:30)6:30 7:30 9:30 10:30 LOVE ACTUALLY (R) (12:00 1:00 3:00 4:00 5:50)7:00 9:00 10:00 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (R) (ON 2 SCREENS) (12:50 2:00 2:50 5:00 6:50 8:20 9:40 3:50 5:00) 6:50 8:20 9:40

5.50 5.00) 6.30 6.20 5.40 ELF (PG) (12:20 2:50 5:20)8:00 10:20 MYSTIC RIVER (R) (11:50 3:20)6:20 9:20 KILL BILL VOLUME I (R) (1:50 4:20)9:50 RUNAWAY JURY (PG-13) (2:20 5:40)8:50 LOST IN TRANSLATION (R) (1:20 3:40)7:40 10:15

UPTOWN

202-966-8805 M CLEVELAND PARK ALIEN-DIRECTOR'S CUT (R) (4:30)7:00 9:30

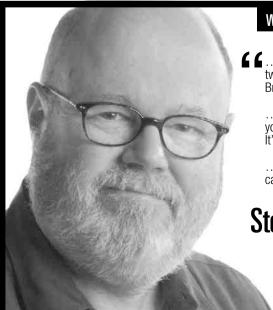
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SHOWTIMES FOR - 11/24/03

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SAMURAI (R) - ID REQ'D * CAT IN THE HAT (PG) DIG ★ (1100 1125 1150 1230 110 135 210 240 315 340 420 450 525

550) 630 710 735 800 835

930 950 1015 GOTHIKA (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1135 200 425) 730 1000 THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (NR) DIG

(105 435) 805 MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) (1145 1250 255 355) 605 700 925 1005

LOONEY TUNES (PG) DIG (1115 140 400) 705 935 AMERICAN WEDDING - OPEN

CAPTIONED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (445) 720 SCARY MOVIE 3 (PG-13) DIG (1140

230) 945 BROTHER BEAR (G) DIG (1225 245 500) 745 955

SCHOOL OF ROCK (PG-13) DIG (1110 205 440) 725 1010 nes For 11/24/03

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MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13)
TUPAC

TUPAC RESURRECTION (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 320) 725 1010 ELF (PG) DIG (1135 235 520) 805 1040

LOVE ACTUALLY (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 420) 800 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (R) - ID REQ'D (105 430) 740 1050 BROTHER BEAR (G) (1140 220 450) 710 930

450) 710 930 SCARY MOVIE 3 (PG-13) (1210 315) 735 1025 RUNAWAY JURY (PG-13) (305) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (R) - ID REQ'D (1220) 1035

CAT IN THE HAT (PG) DIG★ (1215 230 450) 720 940 GOTHIKA (R) - ID REQ'D 210 440) 740 1005 MASTER & COMMANDER (PG-13) (1230 350) 700 1010

LOONEY TUNES (PG) DIG (1130 155 420) 650 920 LOVE ACTUALLY (R) - ID REQ'D

(100 410) 725 1025 ELF (PG) (1150 220 500) 730

MATRIX REVOLUTIONS (R) - ID REQ'D

(1250 400) 710 1020 BROTHER BEAR (G) (1145 200

425) 640 900 SCARY MOVIE 3 (PG-13) (1240 330) 645 930 RUNAWAY JURY (PG-13) (330)

1015

(1205) 705

Sports

Golfers Fit to **Be Tied**

Internationals, U.S. share Presidents Cup after 3-hole playoff

GOLF | After 34 matches between the best two teams in the world, and three exhilarating playoff holes between the best two players in the world, the Presidents Cup was declared a draw Sunday.

Tiger Woods and Ernie Els, playing against each other with 11 guys counting on them, parred all three playoff holes before darkness fell on the Links Course at Fancourt.

After much debate, captains Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player agreed to share the cup.

Trailing by three points, the United States showed it can stage a Sunday rally even on the other side of the world.

Just like the 1999 Ryder Cup only without the home crowd cheering them on — the Americans won 71/2 points from the 12 singles matches for a tie at 17 and the need for a playoff. Doug ferguson (AP)



Dallas Cowboys receiver Jeff Robinson scores in the third quarter of Sunday's 24-20 win against the Carolina Panthers. Dallas has the best record in the NFC in head coach Bill Parcells's first year with the team, which was 5-11 last season.

Carter, Cowboys Hold Off Panthers

24-20 victory keeps Dallas atop NFC East

PRO FOOTBALL | The Carolina Panthers are the kings of the comeback. This time, the Dallas Cowboys didn't give them a chance.

Quincy Carter threw two touchdown passes to revive Dallas' sputtering offense, then made his best plays by keeping alive the final drive of a 24-20 victory over Carolina on Sunday in a battle for the best record in the NFC.

The Panthers were within 6 yards of tying the game with about five minutes left, then ended up settling for a 34-yard field goal in hopes of getting the ball back and working their late magic.

Carter, though, never gave them the chance. Dallas took over with 3:47 left and kept the ball until time ran out. Carter converted two third downs, the first with the aid of a facemask penalty on Brentson Buckner. The next was a 13-yard pass to Jason Witten with 1:39 left that forced Carolina to use its final timeout.

Dallas (8-3) remained tied with Philadelphia atop the NFC East, and there's a three-way tie with the Panthers for the conference's best record. JAIME ARON (AP)

In Brief

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Late Free Throws Lift Hoyas Past Nittany Lions

Ashanti Cook hit a pair of free throws with 1.1 seconds left to bring Georgetown back from a 13-0 deficit for a 79-78 victory over Penn State on Sunday. With the score tied at 77, Brandon Cameron hit the second of two free throws to give the Nittany Lions (0-1) the lead with 2.2 seconds left. But Cameron fouled Cook while diving for the inbounds pass, sending Cook to the line, where he hit both free throws. Georgetown (2-0) deflected Penn State's inbounds pass, and time expired before the Nittany Lions could put up a shot. (AP)

PRO HOCKEY

Savard Returns From Injury. **Leads Atlanta to 1-0 Victory**

Marc Savard scored in his return from a nine-game layoff and



led the Atlanta Thrashers (11-7-3-1), to a franchiserecord four-game winning streak with a 1-0 victory over the Phoenix Coyotes on Sunday.

Savard, who was back just 21 days after tearing ligaments in his left ankle, was expected to miss eight to 10 weeks. (AP)

WOMEN'S TENNIS

France Prevails Over U.S. **To Capture Fed Cup Title**

Even a victory by Martina Navratilova came too late to rescue the Americans, who were beaten by France in the Fed Cup finals Sunday. The French won the women's version of the Davis Cup 4-1, getting a clinching victory from Amelie Mauresmo to win the title a second time. (AP)

Earthquakes Shake Fire for MLS Crown

SOCCER | Landon Donovan scored twice Sunday as the San Jose Earthquakes beat the Chicago Fire 4-2 in Major League Soccer's championship match.

It was the second title in three years for San Jose, which had to come from behind twice in the playoffs this season.

Donovan, whose extra-time goal

against Kansas City in the Western Conference final propelled San Jose into the championship match, became the first player to score two goals in the MLS Cup.

The game, played before a capacity crowd of 27,000, was the highest-scoring in the Cup's eight-year history.

Donovan, chosen the game's

MVP, gave the Earthquakes a twogoal lead with his second goal of the game in the 71st minute.

The 21-year-old Donovan has 10 goals in only 12 MLS playoff games. He led San Jose during the regular season with 12 goals.

The Earthquakes and Fire met three times in the regular season. They played to scoreless draws twice before the Fire won the third match 4-1. KEN PETERS (AP)

HEARSAY | FOOTBALL

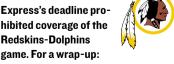
"If they play Oklahoma, they'll lose. All I can say is, 'Go Oklahoma."

-UCLA'S MATT BALL

ASSESSING WHO MIGHT WIN BETWEEN USC AND OKLAHOMA IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL. UCLA (6-6, 4-4) HAS LOST TO BOTH TEAMS, WHICH ARE RANKED NO. I AND NO. 2 IN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL.

REDSKINS POST-GAME

Express's deadline prohibited coverage of the **Redskins-Dolphins**



- Mark Maske's game story | Today's Post, Sports
- Analysis from Michael Wilbon and Thomas Boswell | Today's Post, Sports
- Discussion from Wilbon and Tony Kornheiser | washingtonpost.com/ liveonline at 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON RESULTS IN THE NFL

- → Minnesota 24. Detroit 14
- → NY Jets 13, Jacksonville 10
- → Philadelphia 33, New Orleans 20
- → Baltimore 44, Seattle 41 (OT)
- → New England 23, Houston 20 (OT)
- Indianapolis 17. Buffalo 14 → Pittsburgh 13, Cleveland 6
- → **Dallas** 24. Carolina 20
- → Green Bay 20, San Francisco 10
- → Chicago 19, Denver 10
- → St. Louis 30, Arizona 27 (OT)
- → Cincinnati 34, San Diego 27 → Kansas City 27, Oakland 24
- → Tennessee 38. Atlanta 31

Today's TV Lineup

PRO FOOTBALL (9 p.m. on ABC) The New York Giants visit the disappointing Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

PRO HOCKEY (7:30 p.m. on Comcast) The Washington Capitals are in Detroit to play the Red Wings.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (7 p.m. on ESPN2) Roy Williams leads North Carolina against Davidson.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (2 p.m. on ESPN) Villanova takes on Chaminade in the Maui Invitational.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (5 p.m. on ESPN2) Dayton and Central Michigan play the second game of the Maui Invitational. COLLEGE BASKETBALL (9 p.m. on ESPN2) Ohio State plays San Diego State in a first round game of the Maui Invitational.



BY THE NUMBERS: Green Bay's Ahman Green set a franchise record by rushing for his fourth straight 100-yard game Sunday. It was his eighth 100-yard game of the season, which is also a first for the Packers.

Classifieds

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The National Association of REALTORS®, the The National Association of REALTORS®, the nation's largest professional, trade association, is seeking a professional, energetic Lobbyist. Will act as liaison with members of Congress and their staff, regulatory agencies and coalitions to further our federal legislative agenda and goals. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of 3 years recent (W/in the last two Congresses) Hill experience or 3 years recent lobbying experience with past Hill experience. Excellent written/verbal communication skills as well as strong interpersonal and organizational skills needed.

We offer a competitive salary, comprehensive benefits and a team-oriented environment. For prompt, confidential consid. please forward your resume and salary requirements to:

National Association of REALTORS®
Attention: HR/Ir
700 11th Street, NW
Washington, DC 2001-4507
Fax: (202) 383-7570
EOE M/F/H/V

MAINTENANCE

The National Rifle Association, the nation's leade in firearms safety and education, is seeking a Senior Maintenance Worker to join our team of dedicated professionals.

This position maintains and repairs physical structures of the headquarters facilities. Performs carpentry and minor construction tasks and repairs office furniture. Sets up tables and chairs in conference rooms in preparation for NRA functions and sets up/tears down holiday decorations. Moves furniture between and within offices, hangs pictures, plaques and bulletin boards.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Previous carpentry, drywalling, minor construction and repair experience required. Ability to follow verbal instructions required, as written instructions relative to construction or repair work essential. Demonstrated carpentry skills required. Proved ability to assess a repair or construction project and produce a work product that is both professional and cost effective required. Demonstrated ability to work as a team or independently as required essential.

The National Rifle Association offers competitive salary with excellent benefits including health/vision/dental care, 401(k) and pension plans, in-house cafe, dry cleaner, work-out facilities and tuition reimbursement to name a few.

For immediate consideration, please forward your resume, cover letter, and salary requirements to National Rifle Association, Attn. Human Resources, SMW/wp, 11250 Waples Mil Road, Fairfax, VA 22030: Fax: (703)267-3938 email: careers@nrahq.org. The National Rifle Association is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Manufacturing firm located in Frederick, MD is seeking a 2nd shift Supervisor for CNC Machine shop. Individual must have strong working knowledge of various CNC machining centers, excellent mechanical drawing interpretation skills, and minimum 3 yrs managerial experience in related field. Individual shall be trained on day shift during probationary period (hours: 6.45 AM-3:15 PM, M-F). Once qualified shall be moved to 2nd shift (hours 2:45PM-11:45 PM M-T, 40 hour week).

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National Real Estate Management Company seeks experienced manager for office building located in Northern VA. Minimum 5 years experience, CPM/RPA or medical exp. preferred. Must have strong financial background plus excellent communication and writing skills. Our competitive benefit package includes a matched 401(k) and Employee Stock Purchase Program. Qualified candidates please respond with resume and salary requirements to rwellford@healthcarerealty.comor fax (540) 772-3837. EOE.

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FOF

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ANNAPOLIS—\$2000/mo +utils. 3BR, 2.5BA, frpl, pier, boat slip, beach, boat ramp & great water views. Long & Foster 202-996-5088.

BOWIE—3-BR 2-BA rambler, 1-car gar., remod. kit. & BA, \$234,900. Closing help. Chris, 301-980-4053 REALTY EXECUTIVES/2000

CALVERTON, MD—Very Ig. secure, dry, 24'x30', for car/dry storage. Sec. dep. \$300/mo 301-572-4551

Capitol Hill/200 11th St NE

exceptional light space and proportion. A spectacular home that takes over Constitution Ave. with its pres ence. The bonuses are state-of-the-art everything, unbelievable space. 3 bedrooms, 2% bath, a living room to die for, wonderful landscape grounds. A truley

FAIRFAX CITY & ANNANDALE—Prime ground Ivl ce available. 828-1150SF. Jane Quill, Re/MAX 571-436-6044 or 703-263-5263

FREDERICK Low \$200's WELCOME TO CAMELOT Former model TH, 3BR, 3½BA end unit, swim & tennis are incl. 5202 Earles Ct. Call Jane Horvath Magellan Realty 301-972-8020.

Lovely 5BR 2BA cape cod w/bsmt in Old Hyattsvi Must see. \$205.000 4209 Kennedy St. 301-345-5238

LANGLEY PARK \$279,000
Just renov. 3BR, 2BA, gourmet kit, granite, lots of its.
W/o bsmt, 2 fncd back yds, cul de sac
Ross Wiczer R.E. 202-210-1927.

\$183,900

MCLEAN/Tysons—\$353,700. 2 Ivl, 2BR, 2.5BA 1282sf condo/TH. New wd firs/carpt. 1625 Int'l Dr. #5. Open by appt all day. Gar prkg. Flex on price w/quick settlemnt. Ownr/Agt, Tim Walsh, Re/Max Premier, 703 904-1097.

N.E./KINGMAN —Renovated 2BR, CAC, \$124,950 MRIS DC4628744 YOUNG REAL ESTATE, INC. 301-894-5737

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SPOTSYLVANIA CO, VA—32 acres. \$84,995. Owner financing w/low downpayment. Larger parcels avail. 804-231-6747 www.toomeyland.com

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WOODMOOR/Mitchellville—Just Reduced to \$1.1 Million. Brick Georgian, 5BR, 6BA, 3frpls, 3-car gar, on 2.5 acs, gated commty. Page agent at Long & Foster 202-996-5088.

FORD '51 Victoria—V-8, 2dr hardtop, good condition, restorable easy, solid car, \$3500. 703-583-8346

HONDA - '03 Accord EX. V6. White/Ithr. all opts. gar'd. new insp. 10K. ABS, warr \$20,900.703-400-6899

HONDA '03 954—Excel cond, garaged, 500 miles, \$8500. Please call 240-372-1407

JAGUAR—'01 S TYPE, red, excel cond, new tires, new brks, dlr svcd. \$23,500. 301-870-9936

1.3ac wooded building site on quiet tributary of Ches. Bay. Minutes to great Bay fishing marinas from your protected dockage. Nr Reedville, VA.

ALEX/PARK EAST—Wonderful location. Left off

BAD CREDIT. —End the renting cycle. You pick your house. We get the Loan. Call 571-243-7843

A work of art to live in. You will be awestruck by the impressive home that is a must to see.

Nate Tate RE/MAX Allegiance 202-262-8819

HILLCREST/2223 36th St SE HILLCRES1/2223 36th St SE 3BR 2BA, sep din rm, fin bsmt, beaut. yrd. \$289,000 MRIS DC4649765 YOUNG REAL ESTATE, INC. 301-894-5737

2 story colonial w/ bsmt, huge fncd yard, w/ OSP, cac, newly renov., Ig wrap around covered porch. 4611 Burlington Rd. 301-345-5238

LANDOVER HILLS \$174,900 Newly renov. 3-BR 2-Ivl brk col., + bsmt. 4818 69th Pl. 301-345-5238

LANHAM \$183,900
Newly renov 3 BR rambler w/fin bsmt on corner lot.
Possible 4th BR on lower lvl w/lge fncd in yard & carport. 5501 Belva Pl. 301-345-5238

REHOBOTH —Extensively remodeled 2BR condo, steps to beach. \$659K. 302-226-8272 Beachside Realty

WHEELS

HONDA '01 Mini Trail Replica—Street legal great Xmas Gift. \$799. Please call 240-372-1407

Sports



Seahawks receiver Darrell Jackson catches a two-yard touchdown against the Ravens' Tom Knight. Baltimore came back to win, 44-41, in overtime on Sunday.

Ravens Have the Wright Stuff Against Seahawks

PRO FOOTBALL | Down by 17 points in the fourth quarter, the Baltimore Ravens put their comeback hopes on a struggling defense and a quarterback making his seventh NFL start.

Incredibly, the combination produced a stunning victory.

Matt Stover kicked a 42-yard field goal with 6:32 left in overtime, capping an amazing comeback Sunday that carried the Ravens past the Seattle Seahawks 44-41.

Anthony Wright, who was the Ravens' third-string quarterback just three weeks ago, brought Baltimore (6-5) back. He went 20-for-37 for 319 yards and a personal-best four touchdowns — all of them to Marcus Robinson.

On the winning drive, Wright connected with Robinson for a 19yard gain on a third-and-5 play.

Matt Hasselbeck threw a careerhigh five touchdown passes for the Seahawks, going 23-for-41 for 333 yards. Darrell Jackson had seven receptions for 146 yards and two scores, and Bobby Engram also had two touchdown catches. DAVID GINSBURG (AP)

AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL TOP 15

1	Oklahoma (65
2	Southern Cal
3	LSU
4	Michigan
5	Georgia
6	Texas
7	Tennessee
8	Ohio State
9	Florida State
10	Miami (Fla.)
11	Florida
12	Purdue
13	Iowa
14	Kansas State
15	Miami (Ohio)

First place votes are in parentheses.



Mallon Leapfrogs Sorenstam for Comeback Win

WOMEN'S GOLF | Meg Mallon outplayed Annika Sorenstam over the final nine holes Sunday and took advantage of a rare hiccup by the world's best female player to beat her by one stroke in the season-ending ADT Championship.

That Mallon could make five birdies over the back nine and put together a closing round of 67 wasn't a shock. But overtaking Sorenstam? That's quite an accomplishment.

"You get a burr in your side" after hearing Sorenstam is unbeatable, Mallon said. "But you know there's something you can do about it: Play better." (AP)

People

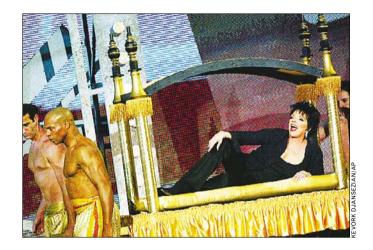
CELEBRITY PASTIMES

Know When to Hold 'Em

Always one to belly up to the table, actor and JLo consort BEN AFFLECK joined some of the world's best poker players at The Showdown at the Sands, a \$1 million poker tournament at the Sands Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J. The three-day tournament, which began Saturday, will be televised by Fox Sports Net on Thanksgiving. Affleck also will be seen showing off his card skills on "Celebrity Poker Showdown" at 9 p.m. Tuesday on Bravo. (AP)



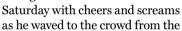
"I've only got two pair ... I wonder if this goatee helps or hurts my poker face."



IDOL HOURS **He Loves a Parade**

An estimated 50,000 people lined up to watch the Raleigh, N.C.,

Christmas parade, mostly to catch a glimpse of the grand marshal, American Idol's CLAY AIKEN. Fans greeted Aiken



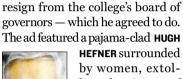
back of a red convertible Mustang. "There's just something about his voice and his personality that is so unique and so different and refreshing," said a New Jersey fan who had made the trip to see Aiken. (AP)

FAST FOOD **Have It Your Wav**

Leaders of Thomas Aquinas College in California were so upset by a Carl's Jr. ad that they asked the chief exec-

GAY IDOLS Hero's Entrance

Who knows more about gay men than LIZA MINNELLI? After all, she's been married to (at least) one. So it makes perfect sense that the diva of stage and screen would pay a visit to Vh1's "Big in 2003" awards to present the honor of "Biggest Gay Hero" to the Fab Five from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy." The show airs Nov. 30 on —where else? — Vh1. (AP)



by women, extolling the virtues of variety by explaining that, though he loved bacon cheese-

burgers from Carl's Jr., he wouldn't want one every night. (AP)



Fans hold a vigil for the King of Pop.

FANATIC WATCH

We'll Always Have Neimans

Fans of MICHAEL JACKSON are standing by him, holding vigils and speaking out against the child molestation charges he faces. "We'll never turn our backs on him," said fan Web site maven Donna Green, 39, whose two children accompanied the singer on a shopping spree this year. (AP)

CFC Organizations:

If your ad was here, it could be seen today by tens of thousands of federal employees.

If your organization benefits from Combined Federal Campaign donor designations, make your appeal in Express. Thirty-three percent of federal workers in the Washington area ride Metrorail, primary distribution point of Express, in a one-week period. That means your donors are riding, reading, and quite possibly waiting to see your message right here before they make their CFC pledge. Call Mora Segal at 202-334-4130 to place your message in Express.



: Scarborough, 2003 Release 1

Playback

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

CONCERNING LAST week's court decision on gay marriage in Massachusetts: Marriage was not designed for people of the same sex. Marriage is a unity between a born male and a born female to reproduce and raise a healthy, whole and loving family. Imagine, if you will, two men at the beginning of the world with the animals and just the two of them, married and told to reproduce. Where would the child come from? Same-sex marriages are not capable of naturally reproducing, so they shouldn't be made legal.

 $-{\bf S}_{{\bf HENNA}}\ {\bf Ross}\\ {\it Bowie,Md.}$

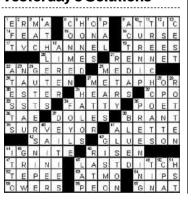
IS IT ME, or did President Bush look really scared in the photo of him walking past the honor guard at Buckingham Palace (Nov. 20)? The way he looked at the guns with the bayonets on the tip had me convinced that he felt someone would try to stab him. His fears must stem from the fact that he has started wars overseas yet can't take care of the place we call home, where we have so many financial problems. How many more times do I need to ride by Rhode Island station and see the homeless men sleeping under the bridge?

> —Toyshika Epps-Brown Via e-mail

WRITE TO EXPRESS

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for space. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington. VA 22216.

Yesterday's Solutions



Crossword Puzzle: Car Talk | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Shot in the arm
- 5 Ring engagement?
- 9 Puccini work
- 14 Marco Polo destination
- 15 "The Piano" actress
- Paquin
- 16 Classic cookies
- 17 Huck's conveyance 18 Farmer's bonanza
- 20 Set of computer files
- 22 Air currents
- 23 Chucklehead
- 24 Voice quality
- 26 Show pain
- 29 Sporty shirt
- 34 It comes before Wednesday once a year
- 36 Discovery's view
- 38 Laconic
- 39 Theater follower
- 41 Snoops
- 43 Christmas
- 44 Portents
- 46 Eliot's "cruellest month"
- 48 "___iron bars a cage" 49 Slide used in
- lighting 51 Manualtransmission
- 53 Loosen
- 55 Flow regulator
- 58 Lose stature
- 62 More merry
- 65 Certain government site
- 67 ___ Domini 68 Kitchen scale
- marking 69 Takein
- 70 Ongoing quarrel
- 71 Goodyear pattern
- 72 "You Are My Destiny" singer
- nt 73 Bei **DOWN**
 - 1 Embellishes
 - 2 Singer-songwriter Haves
 - 3 Unnecessary
 - 4 Japanese floor mat
 - 5 Rum cake 6 Responsibility
- 7 Like some needs 8 Faucet
- 9 Deluge
- 10 Sea World performer
- 11 Feudal laborer
- 12 Ducklike bird
- 13 Hooded snakes
- 19 Novelist Ferber
- 21 It often gets picked

- 25 Different ones
- 27 The end of night?
- 28 Chore-related outing
- 30 Lowisland
- 31 Phone connections
- 32 City on a fiord
- 33 Parliamentarian
- 34 Entranced
- 35 Word with what or where
- 37 Memorable D.C.
- nickname
- 40 Protein-producing
- substance
- 42 Command to a guest 45 Like bonsai
- 45 Like bonsai47 Shown as it happens
- 50 Like cuttlefish defenses
- 52 Wine server
- 54 Place to dive in
- 56 Serena's rival
- 57 Disintegrate
- 58 Robert Burns, for
- one 59 Kind of hand
- 60 Ancient alphabetic symbol
- 61 Quechua speaker
- 63 Listen!
- 64 European erupter
- 66 Where to find good schools?

THE RETURN OF 'OPUS'

Live Online

From washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist **BERKELEY BREATHED** was online Friday to discuss the return of "Opus" to newspaper comic pages on Sunday.

So, run out of money, did ya? Or do you have something you felt really needed to be said? By a penguin.

Why, you ask, do I return? Complicated question. The world went and got silly again. Who would have thought? I left it boring in 1995. Somebody should have warned me that we'd have a president landing on an aircraft carrier in a zoom suit like Tom Cruise. I'm sorry. I'm not getting left on the beach after that one.

You've only done a couple of major interviews during the past couple of years and they both start with how hard it is to find info about you. Why are you such a mystery man?

It's awe-inspiring how people that live boring lives can be so endlessly fascinating when they keep their mouth shut and their head down. It's more fun this way.

What do you think of other political comics today, such as "The Boondocks"?

Aaron McGruder cites me as a major influence, which is always flattering, of course. He's a terrific talent and his graphics sing ... but I wonder, sometimes, if he misses a delicate lesson from Bloom County ... one that I learned after painful missteps with ... uh, outspokenness. Let's just say that if a comic strip tree falls hard in the forest and no hears it because they're wincing ... does the Pope, then, you know, poop in the woods? OK, the metaphor collapsed but you get my meaning.

Do you think that the comic section is just for adults or is there room for strips aimed mainly at children ages 6 to 10? I remember reading the simpler strips way before I actually understood it.

One of the silliest fictions is that the page is essentially a children's page. Someone actually did a survey to find out, and, as I recall, about 105 million people read the pages daily in America. Only 17 million are children.





Horoscope | Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — High places are likely to hold a special fascination for you, despite any fears you may harbor deep beneath the surface.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Something at which the experts have failed may actually prove a simple matter of willpower to you. Can you indeed do it?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Take care you don't come across as being too random or offhanded. Someone has his eye on you — and wants you to be on the mark. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can be unpredictable and lively, and entertain others with your attitude and your

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You're in no mood to be bothered with trivial personal issues. Indeed, what you're grappling with at this time could be serious.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — A more

accepting, tolerant and forgiving stance would suit you well. There is no reason for you to come off as king of the world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Even the most innocent of flirtations can be misunderstood, leading to many complications and at least one broken heart. Play it safe.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Someone close to you is working up the courage to

challenge you directly; you'll receive one

or two important warnings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Something that shows a great deal of promise early in the day may actually go sour before the day is out — and you knew it would, all along.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Take a close look at the emotional and psychic trail you are leaving behind you. Is everything as it should be?

impress many people simply by being yourself. You have a great deal going for you, and others are sure to notice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may be getting rather excited about the prospects lying before you. Indeed, professional and personal potential is high.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You can

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